History: The Workshop

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Fall 2017
HIST 217
MWF 9-9:50
HUM 327

DESCRIPTION
Unlike other history courses that focus on conveying information about a specific geographic location or time period or event, this course strives to introduce students to the craft of history: formulating a question for inquiry, finding and analyzing primary sources, critiquing secondary sources, and constructing an argument in support of a thesis. Each student is tasked with the responsibility of being a historical detective, assessing evidence and making a case for their conclusions.

OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:
analyze and contextualize primary sources
distinguish between primary and secondary sources
critique an author's thesis
build and support an argument
communicate more effectively orally and in writing

TEXTS
Robert J. Allison, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*
Forrest Carter, *The Education of Little Tree*
Annette Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings*
Kenneth Greenberg, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*
William Styron, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*

There are also various articles and selections from other texts available through Canvas.

RESPONSIBILITIES
Attendance: Each student is expected to attend class regularly and punctually. Roll will be taken during each class. More than **FOUR (4)** unjustified absences during the course of the semester will result in a penalty: **YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE DEDUCTED BY A FULL LETTER GRADE FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT ABSENCE**. Justified absences generally require documentation from a physician or university official, which is accepted at the discretion of the instructor, or prior notice to the instructor. Students must present their documentation to the instructor within **ONE** week of the absence.

Class meetings: Each student should have read the assigned materials **before** class and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Students will periodically be asked to write summaries of the readings or answer questions about the readings via e-mail as a part of their participation grade. In-class writing assignments and quizzes may also be administered to ensure students keep up with the readings. **PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES DURING CLASS**.

Assignments: The instructor will provide the details for the written assignments. Written assignments will be **due at the beginning of class.** On assignment due dates, students' written work will be the subject of the class meeting. Thus, it is vital that students complete their assignments by the beginning of class. **Assignments received after the start of class will be considered late**. Each day the assignment

is late will result in a full letter grade deduction starting after **9AM** on the due date. At midnight, a second letter grade deduction will be taken. Each subsequent midnight that passes will result in a further letter grade deduction. **ASSIGNMENTS NOT RECEIVED ONE WEEK AFTER THE DUE DATE WILL RESULT IN A PENALTY: 50 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE STUDENT'S FINAL GRADE.** Students must provide an official excuse for emergencies from the appropriate university office to avoid this penalty. Be advised, poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.

EVALUATION

1. 20% (100 points) based on class participation: discussion, quizzes, in-class writing assignments, reading response assignments
2. 20% (100 points) based on a series of short assignments:
    a. "Day in the Life" assignment (25 points)
    b. document analysis (25 points)
    c. assessment of evidence (25 points)
    d. photography assignment (25 points)
3. 10% (50 points) based on an evaluation of internet sources
4. 20% (100 points) based on two short papers (3-5 pages each)
    a. short paper 1 for which the instructor will provide the topic (50 points)
    b. short paper 2 for which the instructor will provide the topic (50 points)
5. 10% (50 points) based on Portfolio 1
6. 20% (100 points) based on Portfolio 2

The grading scale is as follows:

A = 93% and above	= 465+ points
A- = 90-92%	= 450-464 points
B+ = 88-89%	= 440-449 points
B = 83-87%	= 415-439 points
B- = 80-82%	= 400-414 points
C+ = 78-79%	= 390-399 points
C = 73-77%	= 365-389 points
C- = 70-72%	= 350-364 points
D+ = 68-69%	= 340-349 points
D = 63-67%	= 315-339 points
D- = 60-62%	= 300-314 points
F = 0-59%	= 0-299 points

STATEMENT REGARDING DISABILITY

Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will need to contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center (phone: 713 348 5841, e-mail: adarice@rice.edu).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to behave with academic integrity, which means avoiding all forms of academic dishonesty including cheating and plagiarism. According to the Honor Council, plagiarism is "quoting, paraphrasing or otherwise using another's words or ideas as one's own without properly crediting the source" (http://honor.blogs.rice.edu/files/2011/01/Academic-Fraud-and-the-Honor-System.pdf). Your work should be the original product of your own efforts.

The instructor reserves the right to make any changes to the syllabus.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug 21	Introductions, explanation of expectations and responsibilities
Aug 23	****Day in the Life Activity Due****
Aug 25	Allison, *Equiano,* Part One: Introduction, Canvas
Aug 28	Allison, *Equiano,* Part Two: Volume 1
Aug 30	Allison, *Equiano,* Part Two: Volume 2 and Related Documents
Sept 1	****Document Analysis Assignment Due**** Discussion: Where is Equiano from?
Sept 4	*****LABOR DAY, NO CLASS*****
Sept 6	Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson,* Introduction and chapter 1
Sept 8	Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson,* chapter 4
Sept 11	Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson,* chapters 5 and 6
Sept 13	****Internet Evaluation Due****
Sept 15	Bay, "In Search of Sally Hemings," Canvas
Sept 18	****Evidence Assessment Due**** Discussion: Was there a relationship between Jefferson and Hemings?
Sept 20	*Jefferson in Paris* excerpts
Sept 22	Greenberg, *Nat Turner,* Introduction
Sept 25	Greenberg, *Nat Turner,* part 1
Sept 27	Greenberg, *Nat Turner,* part 2
Sept 29	Styron, *Nat Turner,* part I
Oct 2	Styron, *Nat Turner,* part II
Oct 4	Styron, *Nat Turner,* part III
Oct 6	Styron, *Nat Turner,* part IV
Oct 9-10	*****MIDTERM RECESS, NO CLASS*****
Oct 11	Thelwell, "Mr. William Styron and the Reverend Turner," Canvas

Oct 13	****Paper 1 Due**** Discussion: Did Styron distort history?
Oct 16	film excerpts
Oct 18	***Meet at B42F in Fondren with Dr. Spiro***
Oct 20	***Meet with Anna Shparberg***
Oct 23	Wood, "Lynching Photography and the Visual Reproduction of White Supremacy," Canvas
Oct 25	Evaluating Images
Oct 27	****Photography Assignment Due****
Oct 30	Carter, *The Education of Little Tree,* chapters 1-11
Nov 1	Carter, *The Education of Little Tree,* chapters 12-21
Nov 3	Public Responses, Canvas
Nov 6	***Meet at B42F in Fondren with Dr. Spiro***
Nov 8	*The Reconstruction of Asa Carter* excerpts
Nov 10	****Paper 2 Due**** Discussion: Who is Asa Carter?
Nov 13	**Library Work**
Nov 15	**Library Work**
Nov 17	Research Progress Updates
Nov 20	****Portfolio 1 Due****
Nov 22-24	*****THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS*****
Nov 27	**Library Work**
Nov 29	**Library Work**
Dec 1	**Student Presentations**

*****Portfolio 2 will be due during Final Exams Week.*****